



## Texas Division of Emergency Management State Situation Report

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### New Information Is In Blue

Event Name	20-0012 Hurricane Hanna (EM-3530)
Date	August, 15 2020
Time	9:00AM
Operational Period	August 14 to August 15, 2020
Report Number	23

Regions Affected	
DPS Regions Affected	3
DDCs Active	DDC's 20 & 21

**STATEWIDE CURRENT SITUATION:** Local jurisdictions, with the assistance of State and Federal partners and the Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (VOADs) continue with damage assessments and recovery efforts.

**Weather:** The NWS Brownsville Office continues to update their reports about Hurricane Hanna to their website: [https://www.weather.gov/bro/2020event\\_Hanna](https://www.weather.gov/bro/2020event_Hanna).

On August 14, Governor Abbott sent a letter to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) requesting a disaster designation for eight counties in the Rio Grande Valley directly impacted by Hurricane Hanna. A USDA disaster designation would make federal assistance, such as emergency loans, available to agricultural producers who have suffered losses in designated counties, as well as in counties that are contiguous to a designated county. The Governor's request includes the counties of Brooks, Cameron, Hidalgo, Jim Hogg, Kenedy, Starr, Willacy, and Zapata.

On August 3, Governor Abbott announced that the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) has received federal approval to automatically provide replacement benefits for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients for food lost or destroyed due to Hurricane Hanna in six of the impacted counties: Brooks, Hidalgo, Kenedy, McMullen, Starr and Willacy. Those six counties met federal criteria for mass replacements of benefits based on the severity of storm impacts in their area.

To allow people to continue social distancing and staying home, HHSC is encouraging SNAP clients to request their replacement food benefits by calling 2-1-1 and pressing option 2. Alternately, recipients can download [Form H1855](#) (Affidavit for Non-receipt or Destroyed Food Stamp Benefits) on the HHSC website. To limit exposure to COVID-19, recipients are

encouraged to mail or fax the completed form to HHSC instead of visiting their local offices. Completed forms should be mailed to Texas Health and Human Services Commission, PO Box 149027, Austin, TX, 78714-9027, or faxed to 1-877-447-2839. For more information, please visit [hhs.texas.gov](https://hhs.texas.gov).

On July 28, Governor Abbott visited Corpus Christi to meet with local officials and survey storm damage, left by Hurricane Hanna. The Governor thanked officials for their leadership during these difficult times and reaffirmed the Lone Star State's commitment to helping the victims of Hurricane Hanna. Governor Abbott was joined by Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) Chief Nim Kidd.

Governor Abbott has waived certain regulations related to commercial trucking in the state of Texas. These suspensions will allow commercial drivers to more quickly deliver supplies, specifically electric power poles, to communities in the Rio Grande Valley and the Coastal Bend that were directly impacted by Hurricane Hanna.

On July 26, Governor Abbott announced that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and President Trump have granted a Federal Emergency Declaration (EM-3530) request for Public Assistance Category B (Emergency Protective Measures). Specifically, FEMA is authorized to provide emergency protective measures (Category B), limited to direct Federal assistance and reimbursement for mass care including evacuation and shelter support at 75 percent federal funding.

On July 25, Governor Abbott held a press conference at the Alternate State Operations Center in Austin where he provided an update on the state's response to Hurricane Hanna.

The Governor issued the disaster declaration for Aransas, Bee, Bexar, Brazoria, Brooks, Calhoun, Cameron, Dimmit, Duval, Fort Bend, Galveston, Goliad, Harris, Hidalgo, Jackson, Jim Hogg, Jim Wells, Kenedy, Kleberg, La Salle, Live Oak, Matagorda, McMullen, Nueces, Refugio, San Patricio, Starr, Victoria, Webb, Wharton, Willacy, and Zapata counties. The declaration provides the Governor, the ability to waive statutes or administrative rules that may hinder the response or recovery, as well as the ability to ask for federal assistance in response to Hurricane Hanna.

For more flood safety tips, [visit ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov).

[View the Governor's Disaster Declaration](#)

[View the Federal Emergency Declaration Request](#)

## **OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES:**

1. Protect life and property.
2. Support rapid & effective response.
3. Collect and disseminate accurate incident information to improve decision-making.
4. Accurately track incident costs associated with assigned resources for cost recovery.

## **Region 3 (Includes DDCs 19, 20, 21, and 24)**

**DDC 21 – Weslaco** (Includes: Cameron, Hidalgo, and Willacy Counties)

**Cameron County:** De-watering operations and debris pick up operations continue. The ARC still has one family of six sheltering at the Motel 6 in Brownsville.

**Hidalgo County:** AEP transmission line repairs in Edinburg have been completed. Local jurisdictions have completed initial damage assessments and are working with TDEM Recovery. De-watering operations continue with three State pumps supplementing local efforts.

**Willacy County:** The County continues to work with TDEM Recovery. De-watering operations continue locally. Three State pumps were returned to TxDOT on August 14.

## **RESPONDING STATE AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS REPORTS**

**Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM), Texas A&M University System (TAMUS):** The State of Texas State Operations Center remains at Readiness Level II Escalated Response Conditions, with Daily Operations staff processing disaster declarations, letters to the Governor, Disaster Summary Outlines, State of Texas Assistance Requests (STARs), as well as disseminating severe weather messages, preparing Snapshots and the State SITREP. The State Management Team (SMT) continues conducting operations in the alternate State Operations Center, working together with activated members of the State's Emergency Management Council. TDEM District Coordinators are working closely with their local emergency management partners to assist with unmet needs and resources.

**TDEM Disaster Recovery Task Force (DRTF):** The TDEM Disaster Recovery Task Force deployed three members to DDC-21 Weslaco to assist with damage assessments, volunteer and donations management, and Long Term Recovery Group engagement.

**Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC):** TAHC maintained situational awareness of potential flooding and severe weather impacts from Hurricane Hanna. The TAHC was virtually activated for SOC weather calls and coordinated with TAHC Regional Offices for anticipated support of local jurisdictions. No assistance was needed pre-landfall. Post-landfall, TAHC inspectors conducted Animal Needs Assessments.

### **Mission Information and Details:**

- SOC Representative virtually monitoring situation, calls, WebEOC
- TAHC Regional staff maintaining situational awareness and contact with local jurisdictions for support of animal issues/Animal Issues Committees
- Responded to request to assist local American Red Cross representative with finding temporary shelter for several companion animals. Owners in transitional housing could not keep them at the time.
- Responded to local request in Cameron County to assist with moving 4 head of cattle stranded in a field for several days. Regional Office worked with TDEM DDEOC to assist in this request.

**Texas A&M Forest Service (TFS):** TFS currently has 7 personnel committed, providing planning and logistical support to TDEM. Response activities include Situation Reports, STAR Processing, and Resource Tracking of pumps and generators for de-watering operations.

## **Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ):**

### Temporary Debris Management Sites (TDMS):

As of August 13, the TCEQ Harlingen Regional Office has authorized 9 temporary debris management sites (via on-site visits and virtual site reviews) as follows:

- City of Mission - Authorized July 31
- Hidalgo County Pct. 2 Lopezville Park – Authorized July 30
- Hidalgo County Pct. 1 Donna Collection Site - Authorized July 31
- Hidalgo County Pct. 1 Mercedes Collection Site - Authorized July 31
- Hidalgo County Pct. 4 M Road Recovery Center - Authorized July 31
- Hidalgo County Pct. 1 Sunset Park Citizens Collection Station – Authorized August 3
- City of Raymondville- Authorized August 6, 2020
- City of Harlingen District Main Pumping Plant Site – Authorized August 12, 2020
- Hidalgo County Pct. 1 Monte Alto Collection Site – Authorized August 12, 2020

The TCEQ Hurricane Hanna website is now live at  
<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/response/hurricanes/hanna>

**Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT):** TxDOT has 277 employees repairing roads, fixing damaged signage and making other repairs as needed. TxDOT has also been requested to track TDEM pumps in and out of the staging area, and inspect the Weslaco Airport parking lot for damages caused during POD operations.

## **Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (VOADs)**

### **American Red Cross (ARC)**

- Focusing volunteers on mass care needs and utilizing the disaster survivor information collected through TDEM
- Regardless of whether a household qualifies for financial assistance, other forms of Red Cross support may be available for anyone affected. This support includes food, health and mental health support, spiritual care and more. Call 2-1-1, visit [www.211texas.org](http://www.211texas.org) or visit <https://redcrossdisasterresources.auntbertha.com/> to learn about other resources that may be available.

**Feeding Texas:** The following 3 Members of Feeding Texas are responding to Hurricane Hanna:

Coastal Bend Food Bank: Operations are normal, pantries are open in all areas.

Food Bank of the Rio Grande Valley: Disaster Partner Agencies opened in Edinburg and Monte Alto.

### South Texas Food Bank

- South Texas Food Bank is assisting Starr County officials and VOAD.
- Coordinating with the County Judge to provide food, water and volunteers where needed.
- Coordinating volunteer management and assisting the Feeding Taskforce with information regarding feeding needs in the valley.
- Conducting mobile food distributions in Starr County.

**Southern Baptist Texas Convention (SBTC):** SBTC began demobilizing on August 14<sup>th</sup> and all equipment will be moved by the end of August 15<sup>th</sup>. SBTC is no longer accepting calls for assistance by RGV residents, all calls will be referred to other agencies.

- 1 Quick Response Feeding Unit in Hidalgo County (McAllen)
- 1 Team and Mobile Command Post
- 1 Pickup Truck
- 2 Recovery Teams
- 1 55 KW generator
- 1 Shower and laundry Unit
- 16 Volunteers, 6,396 Meals Prepared, 4,200 Volunteer Hours

**Texas Baptist Men (TBM) Disaster Relief:** TBM continue to respond with Assessors, Chaplains, chainsaw teams and flood recovery teams. A shower/laundry unit, feeding team and Incident Command Team (IMT) have been deployed to support the volunteers. The IMT and volunteers are housed at the First Baptist Church in Weslaco (Hidalgo County). TBM has provided 1,245 meals, 4,425 volunteer hours, 242 showers, 137 loads of laundry, 71 out of 77 work requests, 57 out of 58 assessments, 25 out of 29 chainsaw job requests and 39 of 41 flood recovery jobs requested.

**The Salvation Army (TSA):** TSA continues to engage and coordinate with local and state Emergency Management, The Disaster Recovery Task Force, Texas Feeding Task Force and other partner agencies as response moves into recovery.

Mission Information and Details:

- TSA of McAllen continues to provide hot “grab and go” meals at 1600 N. 213rd Street, McAllen. Lunch 12-1, dinner 4-5.
- TSA of McAllen will continue to work with local partners to distribute food boxes, clean up kits, hygiene kits and other relief items as resources are available.

If you sustained damage, to your home or business, as a result of Hurricane Hanna, please utilize the link below to submit a damage survey. Within the survey, disaster survivors will have the opportunity request assistance from VOAD's. This information, will facilitate us requesting additional resources and volunteers into the area affected. <https://arcg.is/0C8GSj>

## RESPONDING STATE AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS REPORTS

### STATE RESOURCES COMMITTED

Type	Resource Kind and Type	Personnel	Equipment	Status	Location
Texas A&M TFS	ESF4 Rep	2		Assigned	Austin SOC
Texas A&M TFS	EOC Support	3		Assigned	College Station
Texas A&M TFS	Resource Tracking Team	1		Assigned	DDC 21

Type	Resource Kind and Type	Personnel	Equipment	Status	Location
Texas A&M TFS	IMT / Planning Team	1		Assigned	DDC 21
TxDOT	Resource Tracking	2		Assigned	Pharr RSA

**FINAL COMMENTS:** The State Operations Center (SOC) is at Level II (Escalated Response Conditions). The Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) continues to monitor the situation and will provide additional situation reports as needed.

**The four levels of SOC activation are:**

- Level I (Emergency Conditions)
- Level II (Escalated Response Conditions)
- Level III (Increased Readiness Conditions)
- Level IV (Normal Conditions)

*This Situation Report can be found on the TDEM webpage at: <https://tdem.texas.gov/situation-reports/>*

**W. Nim Kidd, MPA, CEM**

Chief – Texas Division of Emergency Management  
Vice Chancellor for Disaster and Emergency Services  
Texas A&M University System  
<https://tdem.texas.gov/>  
Twitter: @TDEM  
(512) 424-2208 (24/7)